

# Public Affairs Office Weekly Report

June 17, 2020

## Hot Issues:

### **ORD Disinfectant Research with MTA:**

As early as this week, HQ ORD expects to issue a news release about research efforts to assess whether certain disinfectants are long-lasting and effective against COVID-19 on hard surfaces in transit systems. This is expected to generate press interest, and potentially interest from elected officials.

### **News Releases:**

June 10: [EPA Announces \\$900,000 in Revolving Loan Funds to Clean Up and Reuse Brownfield Sites in the City of Camden, Niagara County and New York City](#)

June 11: [EPA Announces FY 2019 Superfund Accomplishments Report](#)

June 17: EPA Administrator Wheeler Appoints New Members to the Farm, Ranch, and Rural Communities Federal Advisory Committee

### **Upcoming News Releases:**

- HQ ORD Release on MTA disinfectant research partnership
- Proposed Plan for Unimatic Superfund Site OU2
- Proposed Plan for Riverside Park Superfund Site
- SRF/CWSRF to NY and NJ

### **Upcoming Community Meetings:**

- Hoosick Falls CPWG meeting June 24
- Onondaga Lake CPWG meeting June 24 (TBC)
- Diamond Alkali/Passaic River CAG meeting, July 9
- Riverside Industrial Virtual Public Meeting-July TBD
- Unimatic Virtual Public Meeting –August 2

### **Past Week:**

#### **Wolff-Alport/Wyckoff Avenue Sewer Reconstruction Project**

On June 12, the Regional Administrator, SEMD and PAO staff participated on a call with Congresswoman Velazquez's staffers Julio Salazar, Evelyn Cruz, and Dan Wiley about the status of Wolff-Alport Superfund Site and its connection to the Wyckoff Avenue Sewer Restoration Project. The staffers raised the concerns of Queens Community Boards 4 and 5 about EPA's plan and involvement in the Wyckoff Avenue sewer restoration project. EPA shared that while the agency is not involved with the Wyckoff Avenue Sewer Restoration Project, portions of the project are in areas of the Wolff-Alport site, where there is potential radiological contamination beneath the street and in the sewer system. The project

team for Wolff-Alport also confirmed that the project has received funding from HQ, which signifies that relocation work at the site will begin soon. At the end of the call, the congressional staffers requested a follow-up virtual meeting with EPA, the local community board, and other relevant stakeholders to clarify concerns further. The date and time of the follow-up meeting are to be determined. The project team also committed to preparing a community fact sheet, which the Congresswoman's staff will help disseminate. (POC: Carsen Mata)

### **Columbia Smelting**

EPA participated in a virtual meeting with local Red Hook community groups and NYC Parks on June 11. The focus of the call was the status of work at Red Hook Park ball fields 5 – 9, and when the Health and Safety Plans (HASPs) will be finalized and work resume at the site. Other topics of discussion included CAG formation, community engagement and availability of site related information in other languages and opportunities for further engagement. A follow-up meeting is anticipated, no date has been set. The RPM and OSC also received an inquiry from Dan Wiley of Re. Velazquez' staff asking about the HASPs, and the CIC clarified over the phone that the HASPs will hopefully be ready on Thursday. (POC: Loney)

### **Pohatcong**

EPA approved letters to be sent by Arcadis, the consultant for Rio Tinto, the PRP this week to the 30 outlier residents who will have their well sampled to see if they qualify for a POET. The letter explains both options – those who do qualify based on their results and those who do not also based on their results. We get frequent calls from the residents looking for a timeframe. We are hoping to start this fall. CIC commented on the Community Relations portion of the O&M plan related to the outlier residents. (POC: Seppi)

### **Upcoming:**

#### **Kentucky Avenue Wellfield**

Contractors representing the responsible parties began mobilizing to this site in the Village of Horesheads, Chemung County, NY to began work at this operable unit at the Kentucky Avenue Wellfield NPL Site. The work will include the dewatering of the pond between an 8 to 10 acre area, soil and sediment consolidation grading, installation of a geotextile membrane, soil and sand with native pollinator seed mix and mulch to facilitate vegetation growth on the landfill cap. This work is related to EPA's ROD that was signed in September 2016. EPA has implemented health and safety precautions as a result of COVID-19 and it is anticipated this activity will be completed this summer. (POC: Mike Basile)

**Regional Administrator's Pending Action Items:**

<b><u>Subject</u></b>	<b><u>Date Sent to RA's Office</u></b>	<b><u>Required By/Due Date</u></b>	<b><u>Comments</u></b>
Call Congressman Kim re: Mr. Slappey	3/16/2020 and 4/20		Talking Points including COVID language provided via email
Kiryas Joel – RA to share letter sent to NYSDEC with Orange County attorney, Langdon Chapman	3/9/2020		Mary shared WD draft
Draft response letter to Mayor Chegwidden of Wharton, NJ	5/13 and 6/8	ASAP	Sabina resent draft via email on 6/8
Draft email to Congressman Norcross re: Sherwin Williams/Kirkwood Lake	6/3		Awaiting RA edits to email
Kentucky Avenue Wellfield COVID fact sheet		ASAP	